



Utah Employment Growth Initiative

Special Session Bill | June 17, 2020

Overview

This bill creates several targeted assistance programs related to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and a public information campaign to encourage healthy behavior by Utah residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill appropriates funds the State received due to the CARES Act for these programs and for some existing programs to address the impacts of COVID-19.

Total Appropriation: \$50M

COVID-19 Impacted Businesses Grant Program – Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by GOED to provide grants to businesses negatively impacted by COVID-19 in an amount equal to or less than the decline in revenue due to COVID-19 between March and June 2020. To qualify for the grant, businesses must offer a discount or other offer with an estimated value to consumers of at least 50% of the grant amount. GOED must award at least 75% of grant funds to small businesses.

Appropriation: \$25M

COVID-19 Cultural Assistance Grant Program – Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by the Department of Heritage and Arts in consultation with GOED to provide grants to botanical, cultural, recreational, or zoological organizations that provide a cultural, artistic, botanical, recreational, or zoological activity that encourages travel and tourism in the state. The grant is in an amount equal to or less than the twice the net cost of producing or creating the activity.

Appropriation: \$9M

COVID-19 PPE Support Grant Program – Establishes a tax-exempt grant program administered by GOED to provide grants to businesses to improve workplace safety for workers and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic through measures such as PPE purchases, workplace redesigns, signage, and technology solutions that allow for distance working. The grants are capped per business at \$100 per full time equivalent employee or the actual expenses a business incurs in taking these health and safety measures. GOED must award at least 75% of grant funds to small businesses.

Appropriation: \$5M

COVID-19 Displaced Worker Grant Program – Provides training for workers displaced due to COVID-19 by creating a program within GOED's Utah Works and appropriating money to USHE's Custom Fit program. Also appropriates money for several other workforce training programs to provide education and training to displaced workers and for DWS to create a dashboard to identify unemployment and job opening trends to better match workers with job opportunities.

Appropriation: \$9M

COVID-19 Outreach and Education Program – Creates a public information campaign to encourage healthy activity during the COVID-19 pandemic such as following health guidelines and not forgoing medical care including preventative care, urgent care, and vaccinations.

Appropriation: \$1M

Additional Appropriations – Appropriates money to provide basic needs assistance for COVID-19 impacts. Also appropriates money to provide translation services and technology for service providers working to address COVID-19 impacts.

Appropriation: \$1M